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13 GO PET CLUB, LLC

14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
15 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

16 YUNTEK INTERNATIONAL, INC.,
17 a California corporation,

18 Plaintiff,

19 v.

20 GO PET CLUB LLC,

21 Defendant.

Case No. 4:19-cv-02947-JSW

**JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

Date: November 8, 2019

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Dept.: Courtroom 5, 2nd Floor

Judge: The Honorable Jeffrey S. White

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

23
24 Pursuant to Civil L.R. 16, Plaintiff Yuntek International, Inc. (“Yuntek”) and Defendant
25 Go Pet Club LLC (“GPC”) hereby submit the following Joint Case Management Statement.

26 **I. JURISDICTION AND SERVICE**

27 This is a patent infringement action arising under the laws of the United States. This court
28 has subject matter jurisdiction over under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) because this case

1 involves a dispute over patent infringement under 35 U.S.C. § 271 and patent invalidity under 35
 2 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 and/or 112. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(b). The
 3 parties agree that this Court has personal and subject matter jurisdiction as to Go Pet Club LLC,
 4 and that venue in this District will not be contested. All Defendants have been served.

5 **II. FACTS**

6 This is a patent infringement action commenced by Yuntek, the owner by assignment of
 7 United States Patent No. 6,715,446 (“the ’446 Patent”). GPC is accused of manufacturing, using,
 8 selling, and/or importing that infringe one or more claims of the ’446 Patent.

9 **Plaintiff’s Statement of Facts:**

10 On December 4, 2017, Yuntek sent GPC an email informing GPC of its infringement of
 11 the ’446 Patent by certain model foldable soft pet crates. Having not received a response, on
 12 February 6, 2018, counsel for Yuntek sent GPC a cease and desist letter to stop manufacturing,
 13 marketing or selling its soft pet crate models. On February 13, 2018, counsel for GPC responded
 14 by asking for specific model numbers, apparently unaware of the December 4, 2017
 15 communication that had provided this information. On February 27, 2018 counsel for Yuntek sent
 16 counsel for GPC a letter providing specific model numbers of infringing pet crates.

17 On March 7, 2018, GPC responded directly to Yuntek by email indicating it wanted to
 18 avoid litigation and negotiate a royalty agreement, but the parties were unable to reach an
 19 agreement. On May 9, 2018, GPC claimed in an email that it “stopped selling and removed these
 20 items from all of our customers.” On May 14, 2018 Yuntek informed GPC that it was continuing
 21 to see three models of the infringing GPC soft pet crates still being sold on Amazon.com. The
 22 same day, GPC responded that “[w]e already changed the design for all those soft crates but using
 23 the same model #. This is why you still seeing those listings.” Yuntek then purchased a “new”
 24 model and found that it was identical to the old accused model. When Yuntek informed GPC of
 25 this on June 5, 2018, GPC responded on June 11, 2018 that “[m]aybe a few got slipped by.” On
 26 July 23, 2018, counsel for Yuntek followed up with counsel for GPC once more asking GPC to
 27 stop its infringing sales. GPC then provided a sample of a new design replacing the old model that
 28 supposedly no longer infringed the ’446 Patent. However, on inspection, the new design



1 continued to infringe the '446 Patent, and counsel for Yuntek informed counsel for GPC of this in
 2 a letter dated August 8, 2018. In the months that followed, the parties were unable to reach an
 3 agreement on a license and Yuntek filed suit on May 29, 2019.

4 **Defendant's Statement of Facts:**

5 Immediately upon receiving Yuntek's email contending infringement of the '446 Patent,
 6 GPC investigated Yuntek's claims and determined that the claims were without merit.
 7 Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, GPC redesigned the accused product to clearly
 8 avoid the claims of the '446 Patent. Believing that it had purchased a "new" model, Yuntek had
 9 instead purchased a model from a GPC customer rather than GPC directly, which had residual
 10 inventory of the accused product. If Yuntek had purchased directly from GPC, it would have
 11 received the new non-infringing version. Yuntek, however, continued to maintain that GPC's non-
 12 infringing, redesigned product also infringed the '446 Patent, which GPC denies.

13 Given the low sales of the accused product, GPC engaged Yuntek in settlement discussions
 14 in attempt to resolve the dispute. GPC's decision to engage in settlement discussions was
 15 motivated entirely by economic considerations relative to the accused products' sales and the cost
 16 of litigation. During settlement discussions, Yuntek demanded overly burdensome and intrusive
 17 access to GPC's financial records. GPC proposed less burdensome and intrusive compromises,
 18 including suggesting an independent auditing firm to conduct a financial review. On September
 19 23, 2019, Yuntek's counsel rejected GPC's proposal in an email stating that "Yuntek is not
 20 interested in this option or in settlement at this time, preferring to gather information through
 21 discovery."

22 **III. LEGAL ISSUES**

23 The parties dispute whether Defendant infringes the Patent-in-Suit, directly or indirectly,
 24 whether the infringement was willful, the validity of the Patent-in-Suit, and the damages or other
 25 relief due to either party.

26 **IV. MOTIONS**

27 There are no currently pending motions between the parties. The parties anticipate that
 28 dispositive motions and motions *in limine* will be filed at the appropriate time.



1 **V. AMENDMENT OF PLEADINGS**

2 Yuntek filed Complaint for Patent Infringement on May 29, 2019. No amendments are
 3 anticipated at this time, unless discovery demonstrates that one or more defendants or causes of
 4 action should be added/substituted in the case or that Yuntek engaged in inequitable conduct or
 5 other misconduct in connection with the procurement of the '446 Patent. The parties believe that
 6 amendments as of right should be permitted for 90 days after the commencement of fact
 7 discovery.

8 **VI. EVIDENCE PRESERVATION**

9 The parties have reviewed the Guidelines Relating to the Discovery of Electronically
 10 Stored Information and have met and conferred pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) regarding
 11 reasonable and proportionate steps taken to preserve evidence relevant to the issues reasonably
 12 evident in this action. The Parties have taken reasonable steps to preserve all ESI germane to this
 13 case, including issuing hold notices to relevant custodians.

14 **VII. DISCLOSURES**

15 The parties exchanged their Rule 26 Initial Disclosures on November 1, 2019.

16 **VIII. DISCOVERY**

17 **a. Discovery Taken to Date:**

18 GPC served interrogatories and requests for production on Yuntek on October 25, 2019.
 19 Yuntek served interrogatories and requests for production on GPC on October 29, 2019.

20 **b. Scope of Discovery**

21 The scope of discovery shall comprise the factual and legal issues set forth above in
 22 sections 2 and 3.

23 **c. Service by Email**

24 The parties agree to accept service of letters, discovery requests, and other documents
 25 (except in the case of documents required to be filed with the Court electronically, the service of
 26 which is governed by the Local Rules; documents that are too voluminous for email; and
 27 productions governed by the ESI Order) in PDF or similar format (e.g., TIFF) via an email to
 28 outside counsel of record. This agreement does not apply to service of any summons or other



1 process. For calculating response deadlines, the parties further agree that email service of a
2 complete copy of written discovery requests and responses and objections thereto on or before
3 8:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time shall count as same-day service; otherwise, such documents shall
4 be considered as served the next day.

5 **d. Electronically Stored Information**

6 The parties propose that documents shall be produced in single-page TIFF format images
7 with load files, and that reasonable efforts will be made to suppress duplicates and near duplicates.
8 The parties agree that all documents will be exchanged on discs, by email, or other digital storage
9 medium (including but not limited to ZIP files and FTP transfer). To the extent that any party
10 believes, on a case-by-case basis, that documents should be produced in an alternative format, or
11 that metadata should be produced, the parties have agreed that they will meet and confer in good
12 faith concerning such alternative production arrangements. The parties have further agreed that
13 they will meet and confer in good faith to ensure that the format of each party's production is
14 compatible with the technical requirements of the receiving party's document-management
15 system.

16 The parties have further agreed to defer the production of electronic messages, including
17 email, pending agreement to an e-discovery stipulation, and to meet and confer in good faith
18 regarding the scope any discovery of email and other electronic discovery.

19 **e. Privilege Issues**

20 The parties agree that communications between counsel and non-testifying experts retained
21 by a party in connection with this or any other case or proceeding between the parties should not
22 be discoverable in this case or in any other case or proceeding and will incorporate a provision to
23 that effect in the form of a stipulated protective order to be negotiated and presented to this Court.
24 The parties are still negotiating the degree to which communications between counsel and
25 testifying experts retained by a party in connection with this or any other case or proceeding
26 between the parties should or should not be discoverable and once resolved will incorporate a
27 provision to reflect their agreement in the stipulated protective order to be negotiated and
28 presented to this Court.



1 The parties agree that no document or communication to or from counsel, or authored by
 2 or at the direction of counsel to their respective clients, need be placed upon a privilege log if it
 3 was authored or created after December 4, 2017 (the date on which Yuntek first contacted GPC
 4 about alleged infringement).

5 In their forthcoming stipulated proposed protective order, the parties may address other
 6 matters pertaining to privileged materials, including with respect to issues of waiver or non-waiver
 7 in the event of inadvertent disclosures. The parties do not believe that there are any other specific
 8 issues relating to claims of privilege, or of protection as trial-preparation material, that require an
 9 agreement of the parties or an order of the Court at this time.

10 **f. Limitation on or Modifications of the Discovery Rules**

11 Without waiving their right to do so in the future, the parties do not at this time propose
 12 any specific changes to the discovery limitations imposed under the Federal or Local Rules. The
 13 parties will submit a Stipulated E-Discovery Order and a Stipulated Protective Order.

14 **IX. CLASS ACTIONS**

15 This action is not a class action.

16 **X. RELATED CASES**

17 There are no related cases.

18 **XI. RELIEF**

19 **Plaintiff's Statement:**

20 Yuntek requests that judgment be entered in its favor and against GPC as follows:

21 1. Enter a judgment that GPC has infringed claims of the '446 Patent literally and/or
 22 under the doctrine of equivalents;

23 2. Grant a permanent injunction against GPC, its agents, servants, employees,
 24 officers, directors, successors, affiliates and assigns, and all others in concert or privity with it,
 25 from making, using, offering to sell, selling, or importing into the United States, the GPC Soft
 26 Crate and any product that is not colorably different from it;

27 3. Award damages, enhanced damages and prejudgment interest to Yuntek under 35
 28 U.S.C. § 284;



1 4. Declare that the case is exceptional and correspondingly award Yuntek attorney
 2 fees and costs under 35 U.S.C. § 285;

3 5. Grant such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

4 **Defendant's Statement:**

5 GPC is seeking declaratory judgments that the '446 Patent is not infringed by GPC and is
 6 invalid for failing to satisfy one or more of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101, et seq., including
 7 but not limited to 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112. GPC reserves the right to seek
 8 attorneys' fees, including pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285.

9 **XII. SETTLEMENT AND ADR**

10 The parties have not yet engaged in settlement discussions, but will participate in the
 11 Court's ADR process. The parties are in compliance with ADR L.R. 3-5, and filed ADR
 12 Certification By Parties and Counsel on October 18, 2019. Both parties prefer to discuss ADR
 13 selection at the case management conference.

14 **XIII. CONSENT TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR ALL PURPOSES**

15 The parties have not consented to have a magistrate judge conduct further proceedings
 16 including trial and entry of judgment.

17 **XIV. OTHER REFERENCES**

18 This case involves legal issues related to patent law with which this court has ample
 19 experience and for which this court has developed and implemented special rules and procedures
 20 in the form of the Patent Local Rules. The technology involved can be understood and
 21 appreciated by the Court without submission to a special master. The '446 Patent is not currently
 22 being asserted in multiple districts. Accordingly, this case is not suitable for reference to binding
 23 arbitration, a special master, or the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation.

24 **XV. NARROWING OF THE ISSUES**

25 As is typical in a case for patent infringement, the parties expect that the exchange of
 26 contentions and the claim construction process will assist the parties in identifying issues that can
 27 be narrowed or resolved prior to trial. The parties anticipate being able to narrow the issues
 28 presented for claim construction by agreement. The parties will discuss opportunities to



1 streamline the presentation of evidence and to present stipulated facts as trial approaches.

2 **XVI. EXPEDITED TRIAL PROCEDURE**

3 The parties do not request an expedited trial procedure.

4 **XVII. SCHEDULING**

5 The parties' positions concerning scheduling are as follows:

6 Event	7 Date
Initial Case Management Conference	November 8, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.
P.R. 3-1 & 3-2 Disclosure of Asserted Claims and Infringement Contentions and Document Production Accompanying Disclosure	November 22, 2019
P.R. 3-3 & 3-4 Invalidity Contentions and Document Production Accompanying Invalidity Contentions	January 6, 2020
P.R. 4-1 Exchange of Proposed Terms for Construction	January 20, 2020
P.R. 4-1(b) Parties Meet And Confer To Identify 10 Claim Terms For Construction	January 20, 2020 – February 3, 2020
P.R. 4-2 Exchange Preliminary Claim Constructions and Extrinsic Evidence	February 10, 2020
P.R. 3-8 Damages Contentions	February 25, 2020
P.R. 3-9 Responsive Damages Contentions	March 6, 2020
P.R. 4-3 Joint Claim Construction and Prehearing Statement	March 6, 2020
P.R. 4-4 Completion of Claim Construction Discovery	April 6, 2020
P.R. 4-5(a) Plaintiff's Opening Claim Construction Brief and Supporting Evidence	April 20, 2020
P.R. 4-5(b) Defendants' Responsive Claim Construction Brief and Supporting Evidence	May 4, 2020
P.R. 4-5(c) Plaintiff's Reply Claim Construction Brief	May 11, 2020
P.R. 4-6 Claim construction hearing	At the Court's convenience. The parties suggest the week of June 1, 2020.
Claim construction ruling	TBD
P.R. 3-7 Advice of Counsel Disclosure	Claim construction ruling + 30 days
Fact Discovery Cut-off	Claim construction ruling + 90 days
L.R. 37-3 Final date for motion to compel fact discovery	Claim construction ruling + 97 days
Opening Expert Reports	Close of fact discovery + 35 days
Rebuttal Expert Reports	Close of fact discovery + 56 days
Expert Discovery Cut-off	Close of fact discovery

Event	Date
L.R. 37-3 Final date for motion to compel expert discovery	+ 84 days Close of fact discovery + 91 days
Deadline For Filing Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions	Close of expert discovery + 14 days
Deadline For Responding To Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions	Close of expert discovery + 35 days
Deadline for Replies To Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions	Close of expert discovery + 49 days
Hearing on Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions	TBD
Pretrial Conference	TBD
Trial	At the Court's convenience

XVIII. TRIAL

The parties preliminarily estimate three-to-four days for trial. Both parties requested a jury trial.

XIX. DISCLOSURE OF NON-PARTY INTERESTED ENTITIES OR PERSONS

Plaintiff's Disclosure

Yuntek has no non-party interested entities to disclose.

Defendant's Disclosure

GPC has no parent corporation or public subsidiaries and that no publicly held corporation owns 10% or more of the stock of Pel Wholesale, Inc. d/b/a Go Pet Club.

XX. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

All attorneys of record for the parties have reviewed the Guidelines for Professional Conduct for the Northern District of California.

XXI. LOCAL PATENT RULE 2.1

(a) Proposed modifications to obligations or deadlines in the Local Patent Rules

The proposed schedule reflecting the local patent rules and any modifications to that schedule is outlined in Section XVII above.

(b) Scope and Timing of Claim Construction Discovery

The parties will assess which claim terms, if any, require claim construction following the



1 exchange of infringement contentions and invalidity contentions, which will inform the scope of
2 claim construction discovery. The proposed schedule reflecting the timing of claim construction
3 discovery is outlined in Section XVII above.

4 **(c) Format and Length of Claim Construction Hearing**

5 The parties do not know which, or how many terms will require claim construction at this
6 time. However, the parties anticipate that the claim construction hearing should take no more than
7 four hours because of the approachability of the patented technology and because experts will
8 likely not be needed.

9 **(d) Patent Technology Tutorial**

10 The parties do not believe a technology tutorial is necessary to understand the patented
11 technology in this case.

12 **(e) Estimate of Damages**

13 Yuntek is not aware of the revenues associated with the sales of GPC's products and is
14 thus not able to provide an estimate of damages at this time. Yuntek believes that once it receives
15 complete discovery of GPC's sales, it will be able to provide an estimate to the Court.

16 DATED: November 1, 2019

17 Respectfully submitted,

18 KILPATRICK TOWNSEND & STOCKTON LLP

19 By: */s/ Norris P. Boothe*
20 NORRIS P. BOOTHE
21 MANSI H. SHAH

22 Attorneys for Plaintiff
23 Yuntek International, Inc.



1 DATED: November 1, 2019 Respectfully submitted,

2 ARENT FOX LLP

3 By: /s/ Jeff Leung
4 CRAIG A. GELFAND
5 JEFF LEUNG

6 Attorneys for Defendant
7 Go Pet Club LLC

8 **CIVIL LOCAL RULE 5-1 ATTESTATION**

10 I, Norris P. Boothe, am the ECF user whose credentials were utilized in the electronic
11 filing of this document. In accordance with Civil Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), I hereby attest that Jeff
12 Leung concurred in the filing of this document.

13
14
15 /s/ Norris P. Boothe
16 NORRIS P. BOOTHE